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SIPDIS

FOR ISN/MTR (PAUL), EAP/MLS (BLACKSHAW)

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MTCRE](#) [MNUC](#) [KSCA](#) [ETTC](#) [TSPA](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: VIETNAM "CONSIDERING" JOINING HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT, BUT  
HAS NO TIMETABLE

REF: STATE 44996

¶1. (SBU) On May 13, Deputy PolCouns met with the MFA International Organization Department's lead official on non-proliferation issues, Pham Hai Anh, to urge Vietnam to subscribe to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Missile Proliferation (HCOC). Per reftel, he noted that 130 countries now subscribed to the HCOC and that another 29 had endorsed the Code at the General Assembly in December 2008; Vietnam, as a Security Council member with growing regional influence, stands out by its absence. DPolCouns emphasized that joining HCOC would entail very little financial burden, since the instrument does not have a formal secretariat or implementing organization.

¶2. (SBU) In response, Anh stressed that Vietnam supports the "spirit, goals, and purpose" of HCOC, just as it supports non-proliferation as a general principle. As a practical matter, however, Vietnam was still considering the "technical" aspects of HCOC, as well as any additional costs that might be incurred, a process that entailed interagency review. Anh was not able to estimate how long this process might take, but said that at a minimum the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Customs would have to weigh in.

MICHALAK